JO-MICHAEL SCHEIBE CHORAL SERIES

HL08501466
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Eric Whitacre

Five Hebrew Love Songs

Hila Plitmann

SATB Chorus, Piano and Violin

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In the spring of 1996, my great friend and brilliant violinist Friedemann Eichhorn invited me and my girlfriend-at-the-time Hila Plitmann (a soprano) to give a concert with him in his home city of Speyer, Germany. We had all met that year as students at the Juilliard School, and were inseparable.

Because we were appearing as a band of traveling musicians, 'Friedy' asked me to write a set of troubadour songs for piano, violin and soprano. I asked Hila (who was born and raised in Jerusalem) to write me a few 'postcards' in her native tongue, and a few days later she presented me with these exquisite and delicate Hebrew poems. I set them while we vacationed in a small skiing village in the Swiss Alps, and we performed them for the first time a week later in Speyer.

In 2001, the University of Miami commissioned me to adapt the songs for SATB chorus and string quartet, and the Efroni Choir in Israel commissioned me to adapt them for SA, violin and piano, leaving me now with five (!) different versions of the same work: SATB and string quartet; SATB, violin, and piano; SA and string quartet; SA violin, and piano; and the original soprano, violin, and piano. The choral parts are exactly the same for the different accompaniments, so that if the choir wants to perform the version with string quartet, the chorus can sing from the piano/violin score and the conductor can lead from the quartet version.

Each of the songs captures a moment that Hila and I shared together. "Kala Kalla" (which means 'light bride') was a pun I came up with while she was first teaching me Hebrew. The bells at the beginning of "Eyze Shelleg" are the exact pitches that awakened us each morning in Germany as they rang from a nearby cathedral.

These songs are profoundly personal for me, born entirely out of my new love for this soprano, poet, and now my beautiful wife, Hila Plitmann.

~ Eric Whitacre

FIVE HEBREW LOVE SONGS

I.
A picture is engraved in my heart;
Moving between light and darkness:
A sort of silence envelopes your body,
And your hair falls upon your face just so.

II.
Light bride
She is all mine,
And lightly
She will kiss me!

III.
"Mostly," said the roof to the sky,
"the distance between you and I is endlessness;
But a while ago two came up here,
and only one centimeter was left between us."

IV.
What snow!
Like little dreams
Falling from the sky.

V.
He was full of tenderness;
She was very hard.
And as much as she tried to stay thus,
Simply, and with no good reason,
He took her into himself,
And set her down
in the softest, softest place.

~ Hila Plitmann

Commissioned by the University of Miami School of Music
on its 75th Anniversary

FIVE HEBREW LOVE SONGS

for SATB chorus, violin solo, and piano

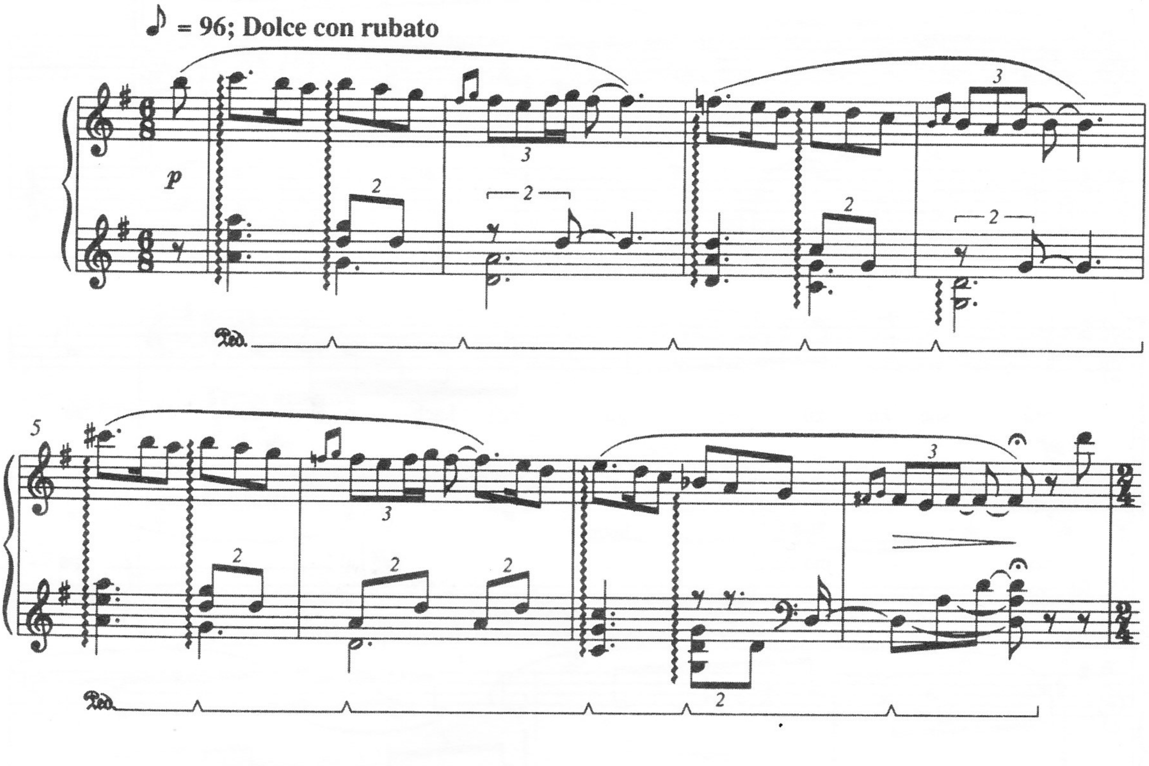
לַעֲכְבְּרוֹנֶת שֶׁלִּי

I. Temuná

A picture

HILA PLITMANN

ERIC WHITACRE


♪ = 96; Dolce con rubato
p
3
2
Ped.
5
9
SOPRANO
♪ = ♪
mp
Te - mu - ná be - li - bí cha - ru -
ALTO
mp
Te - mu - ná cha - - ru -
mp
♪ = ♪
mp
2
Ped.

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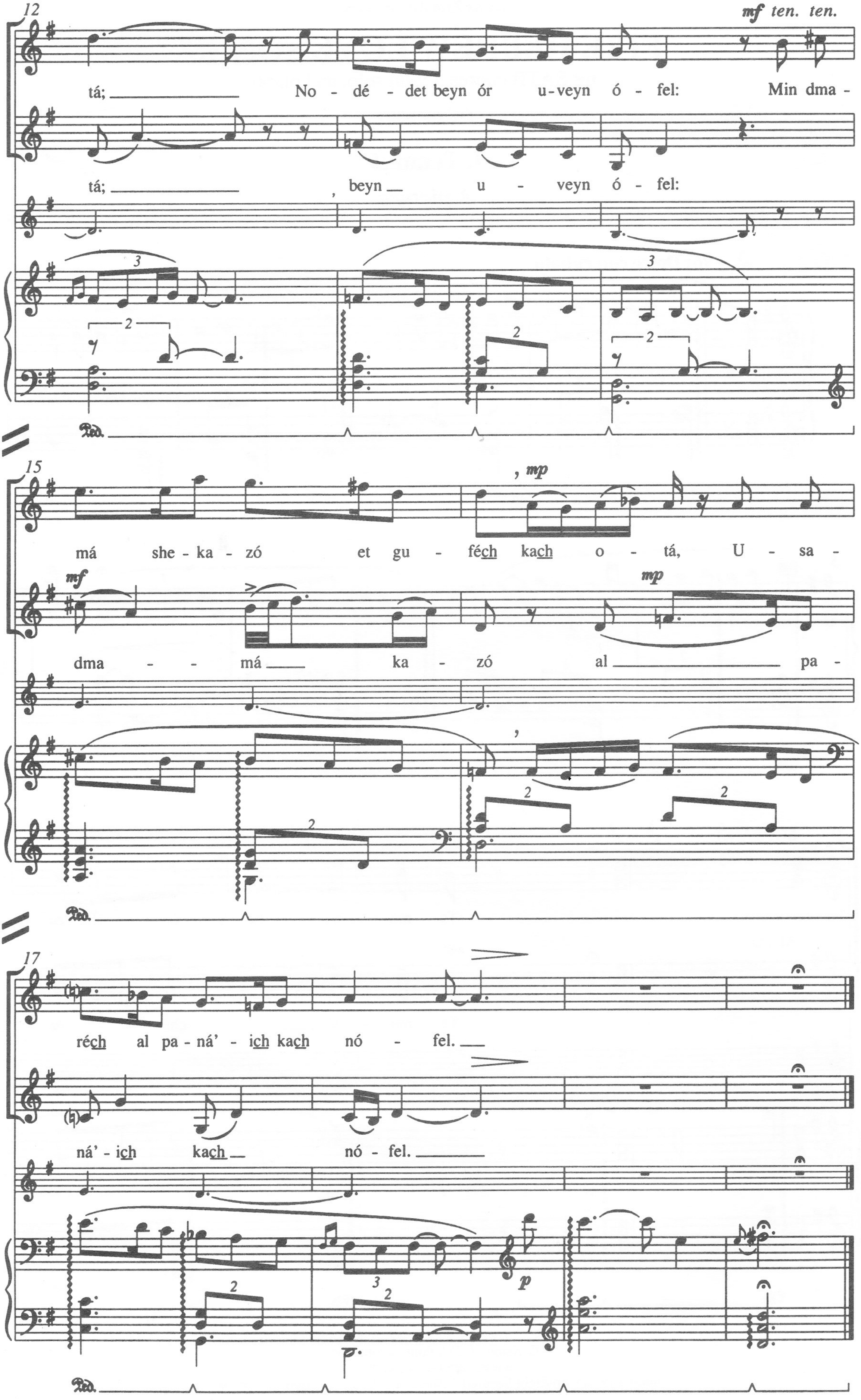
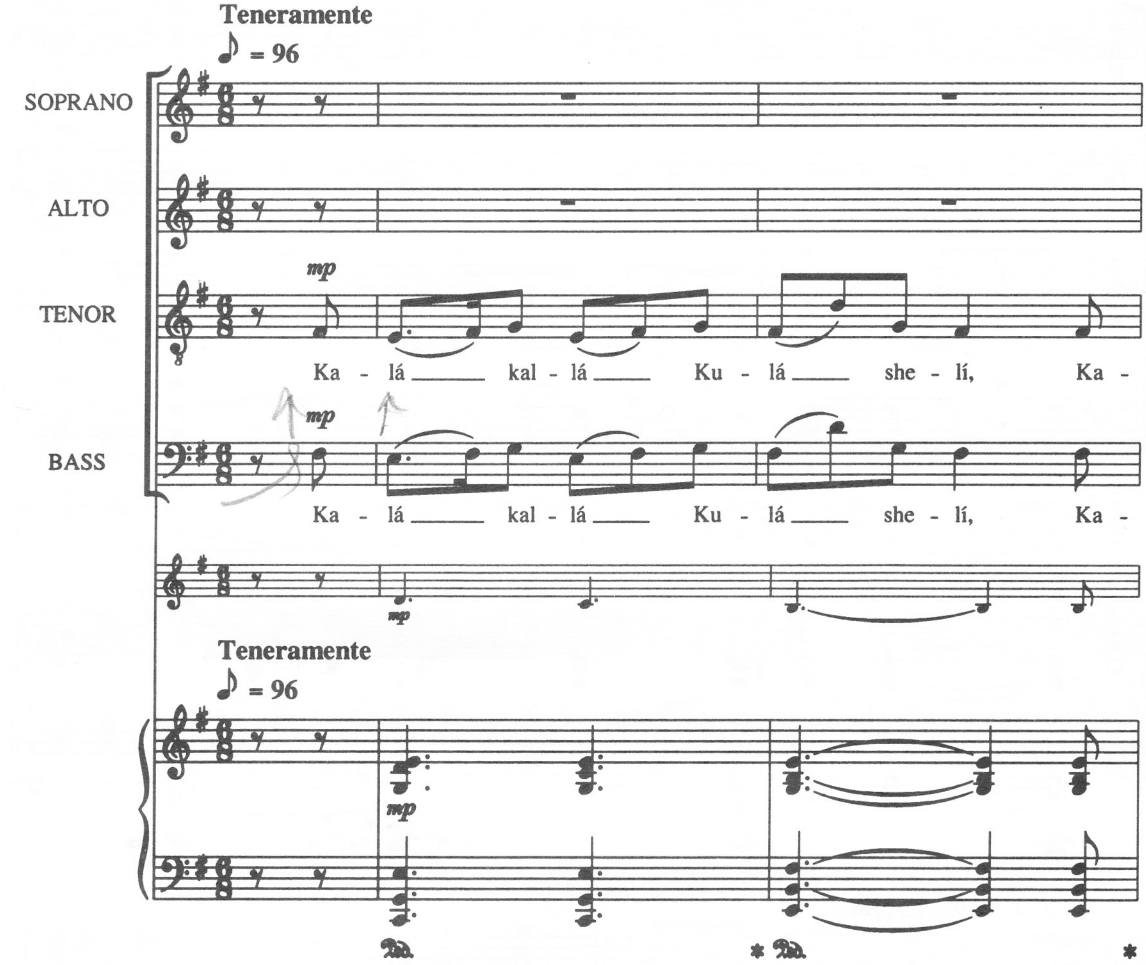
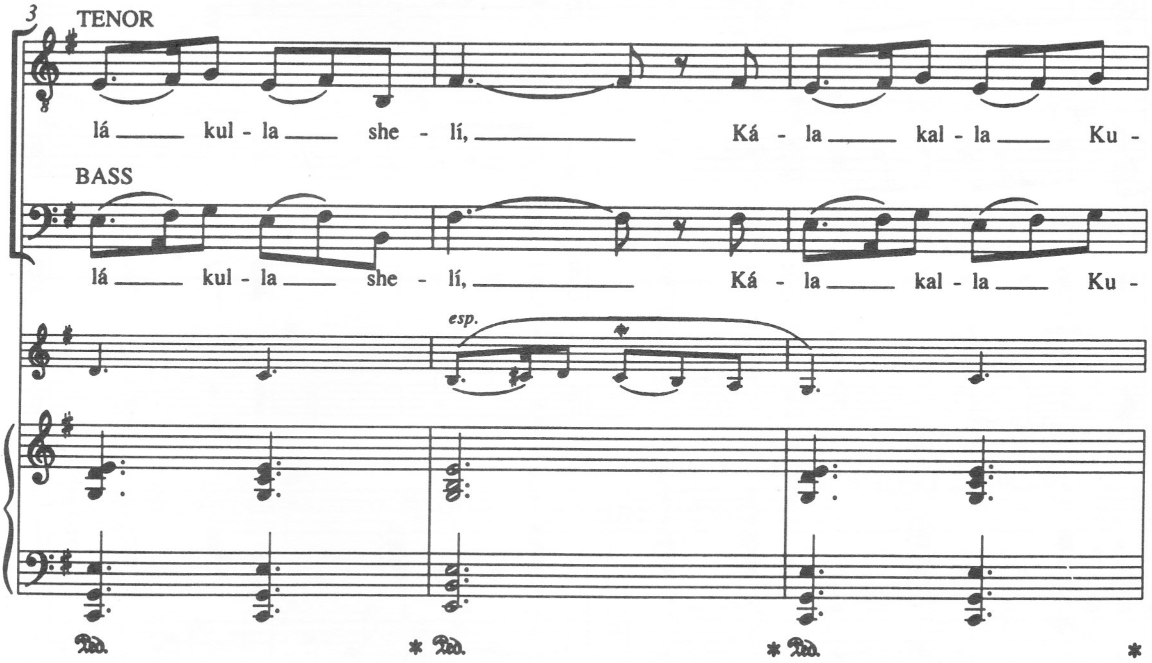
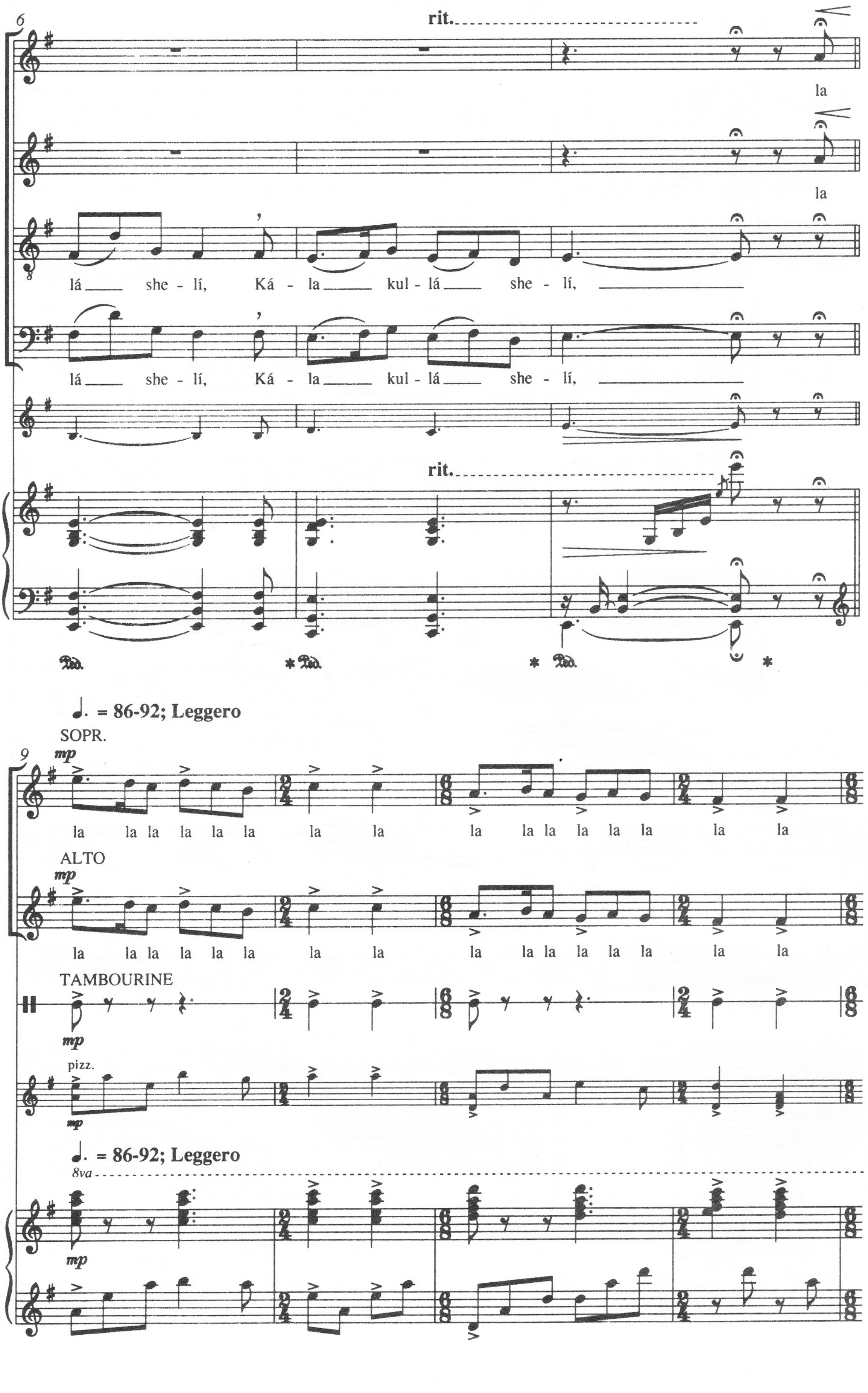

12
mf ten. ten.
tá; No - dé - det beyn ór u-veyn ó - fel: Min dma -
tá; , beyn u - veyn ó - fel:
3
2
3
2
2
Ped.
15
, mp
má she - ka - zó et gu - féch kach o - tá, U - sa -
mf
mp
dma - - má ka - zó al pa -
,
2
2
2
Ped.
17
réch al pa - ná' - ich kach nó - fel.
ná' - ich kach nó - fel.
2
3
2
p
Ped.

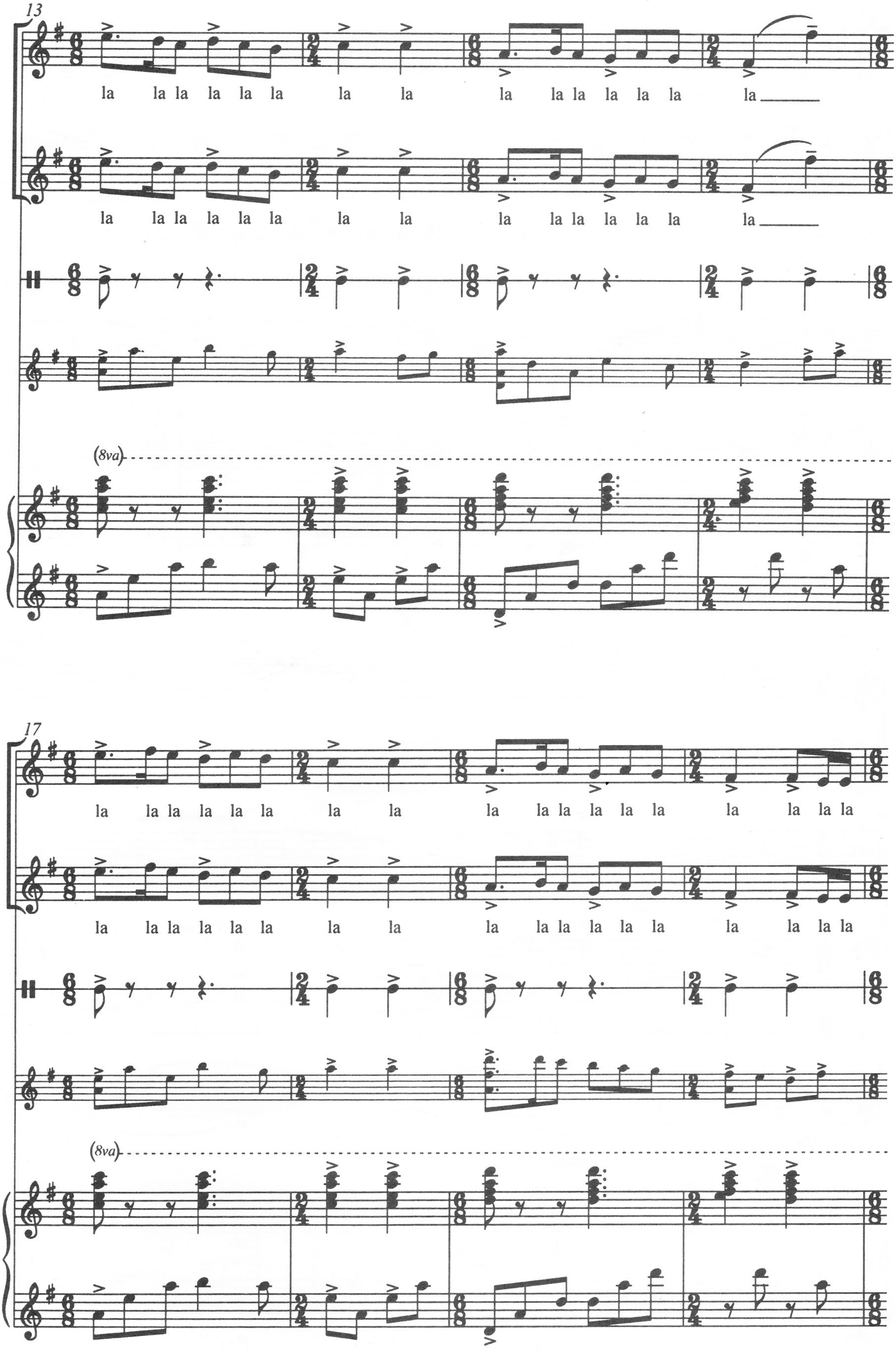
II. Kalá kallá

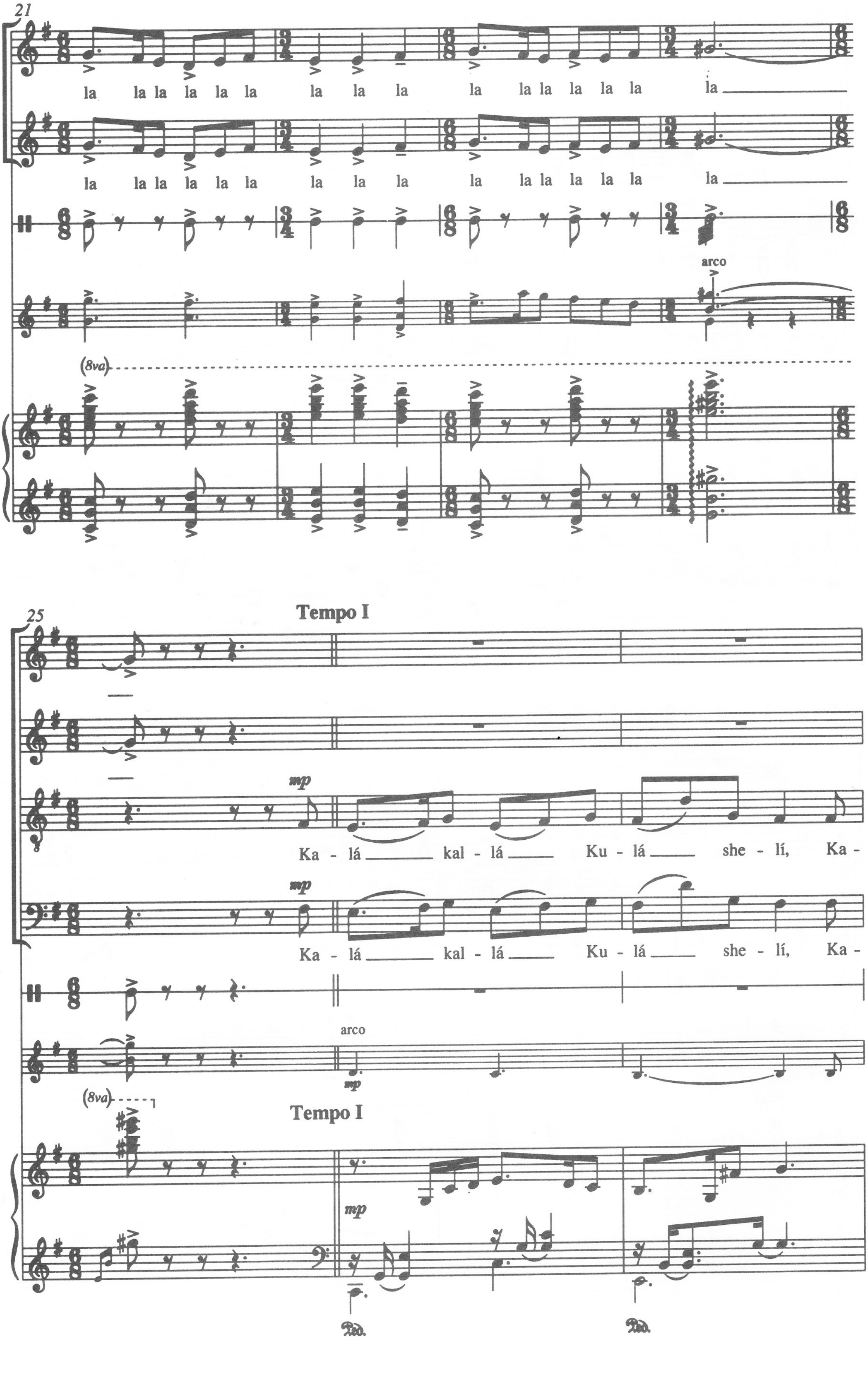
Light bride

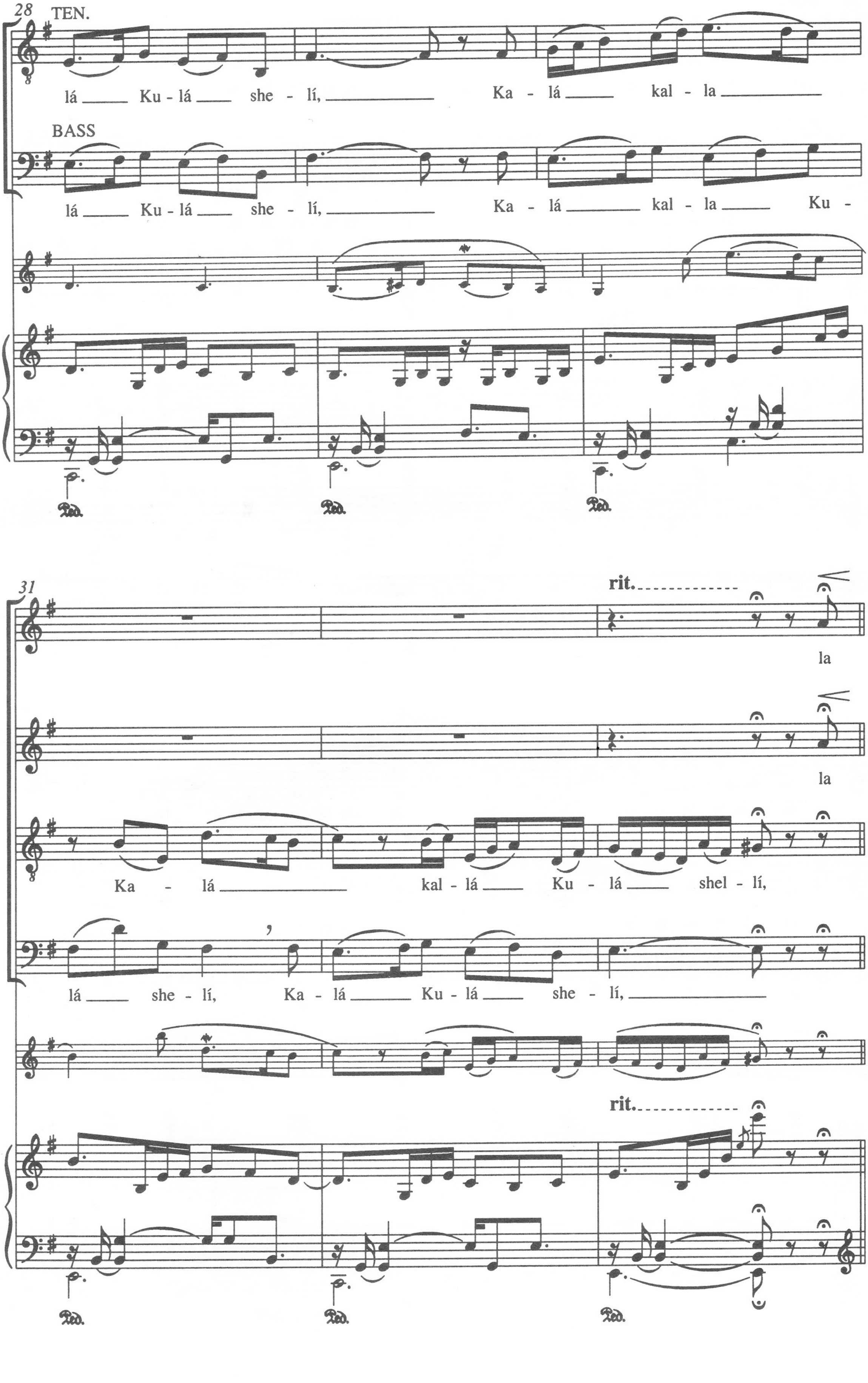

Teneramente
♪ = 96
SOPRANO
ALTO
TENOR
BASS
mp
Ka - lá kal - lá Ku - lá she - lí, Ka -
Ka - lá kal - lá Ku - lá she - lí, Ka -
Teneramente
♪ = 96

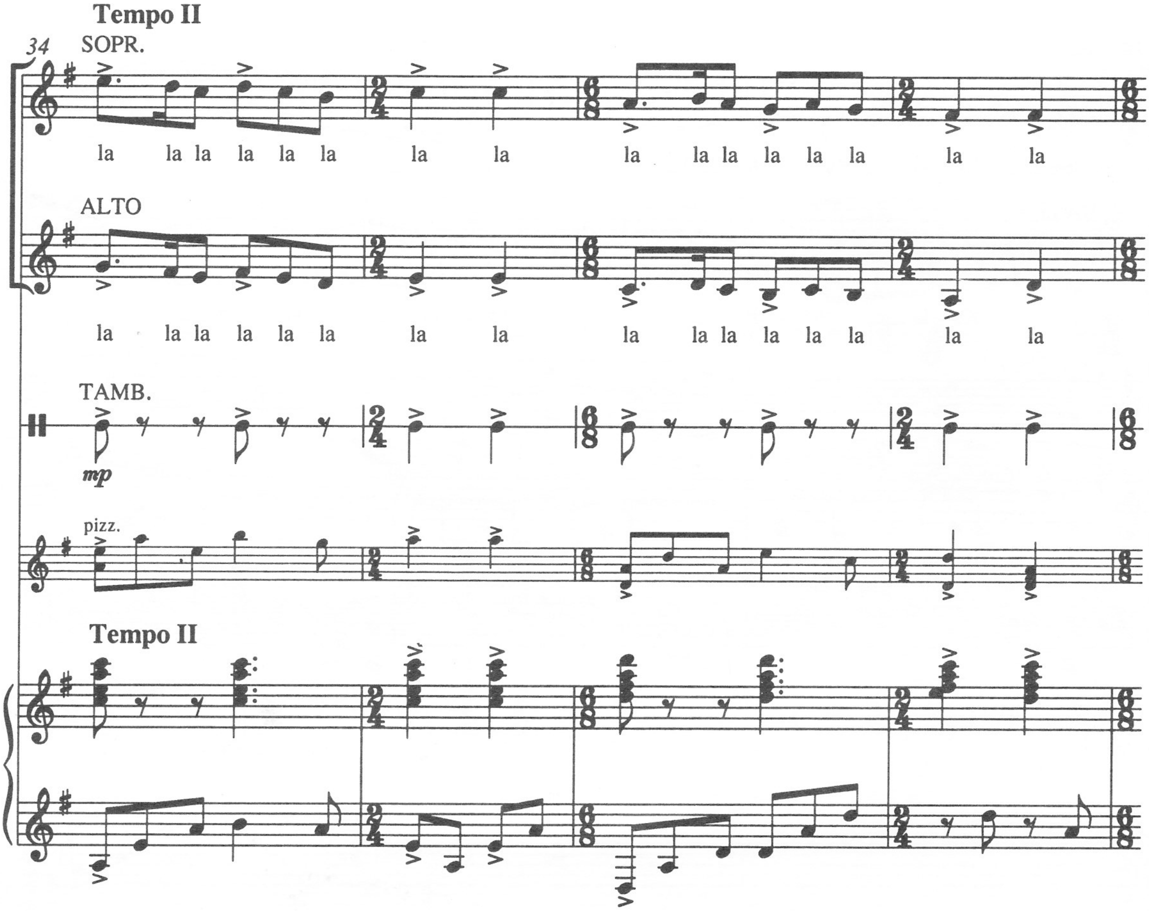

3
TENOR
lá kul - la she - lí, Ká - la kal - la Ku -
BASS
lá kul - la she - lí, Ká - la kal - la Ku -
esp.

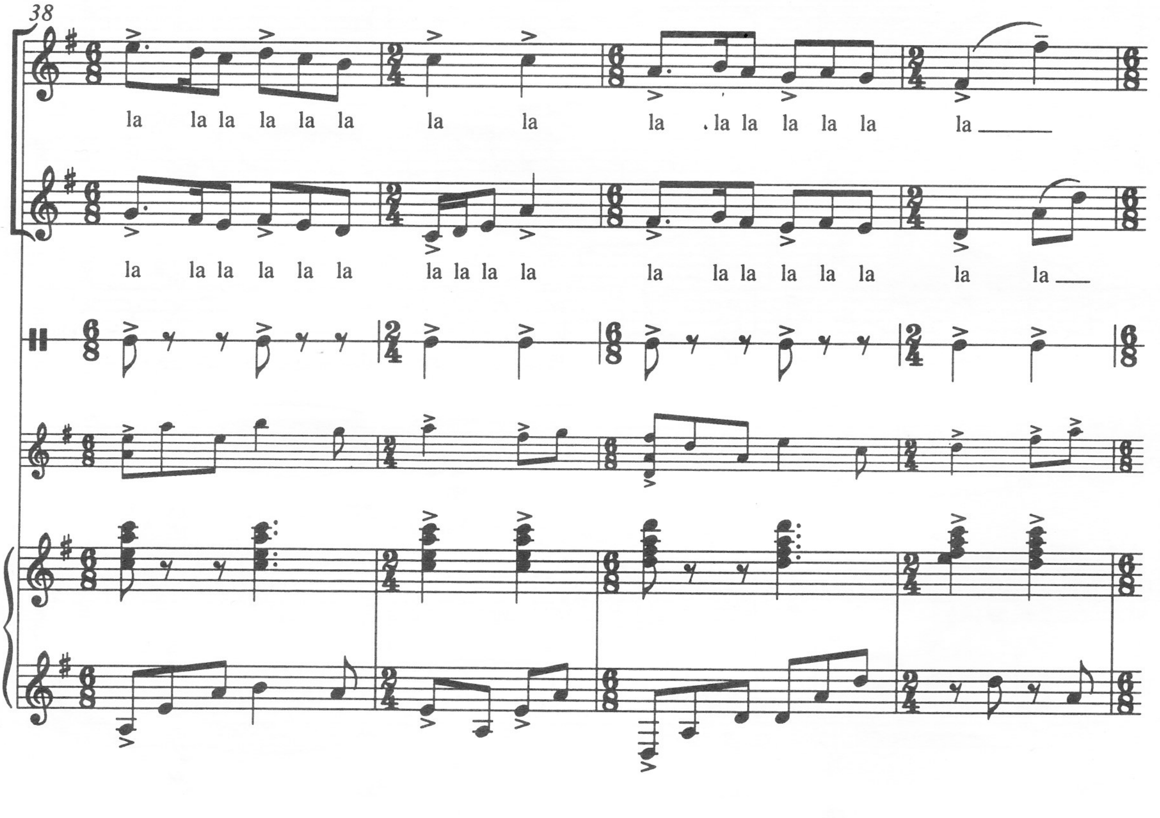

6
rit.
la
la
lá she - lí, Ká - la kul - lá she - lí,
lá she - lí, Ká - la kul - lá she - lí,
rit.
Ped. * Ped. * Ped. *
♩. = 86-92; Leggero
SOPR.
9
mp
la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la
ALTO
mp
la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la
TAMBOURINE
mp
pizz.
mp
♩. = 86-92; Leggero
8va
mp

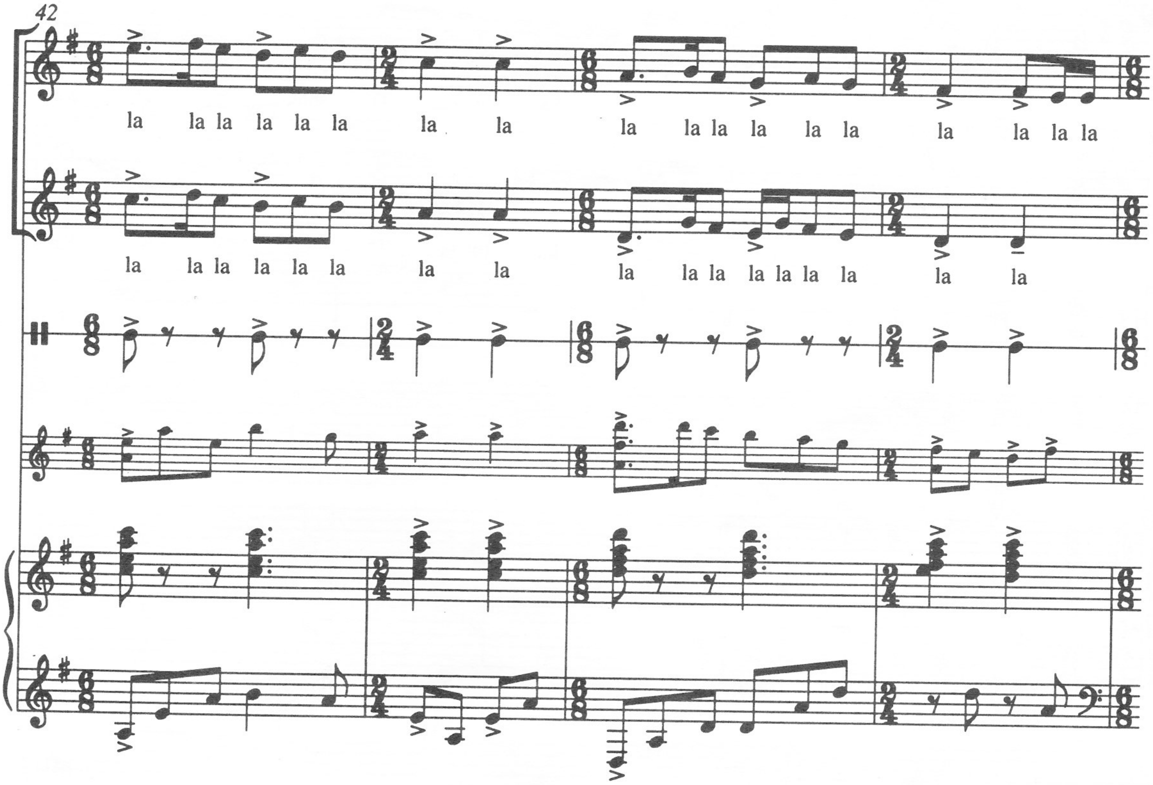

13
la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la
la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la
(8va)
17
la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la
la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la
(8va)

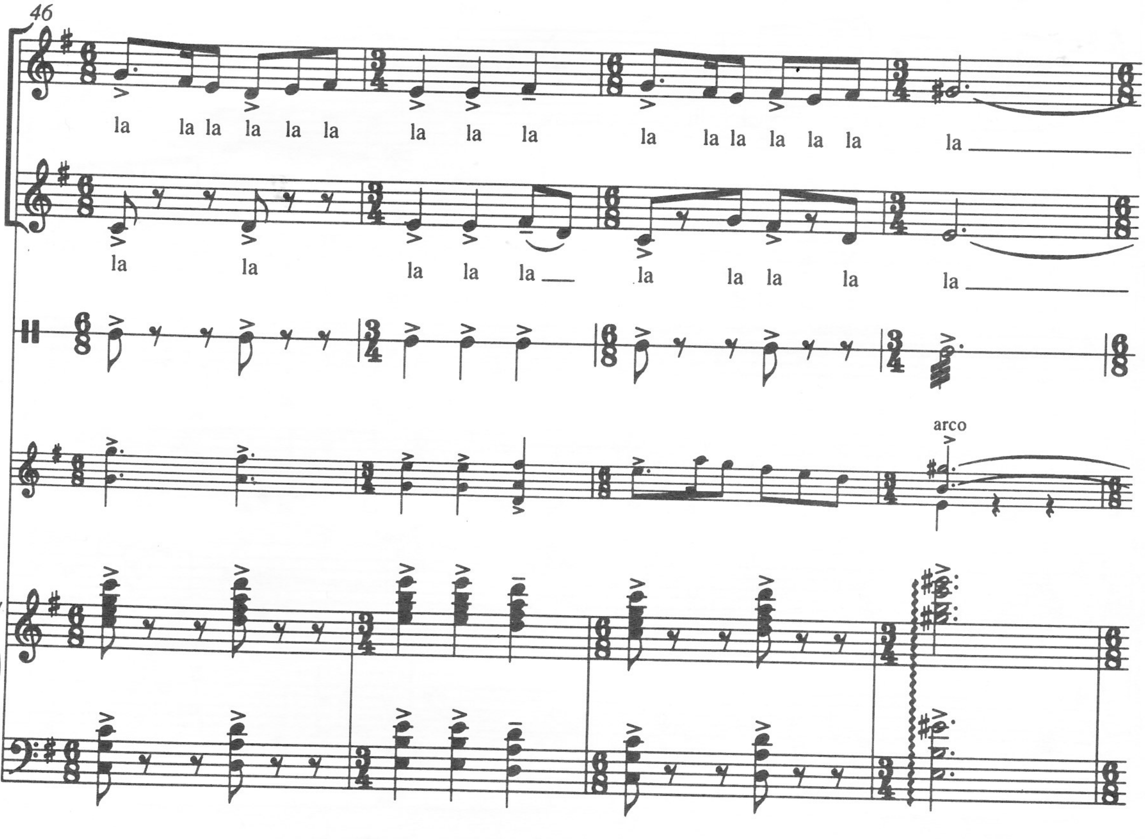

21
la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la
la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la
arco
(8va)
25
Tempo I
mp
Ka - lá kal - lá Ku - lá she - lí, Ka -
mp
Ka - lá kal - lá Ku - lá she - lí, Ka -
arco
mp
(8va)
Tempo I
mp
Ped.
Ped.

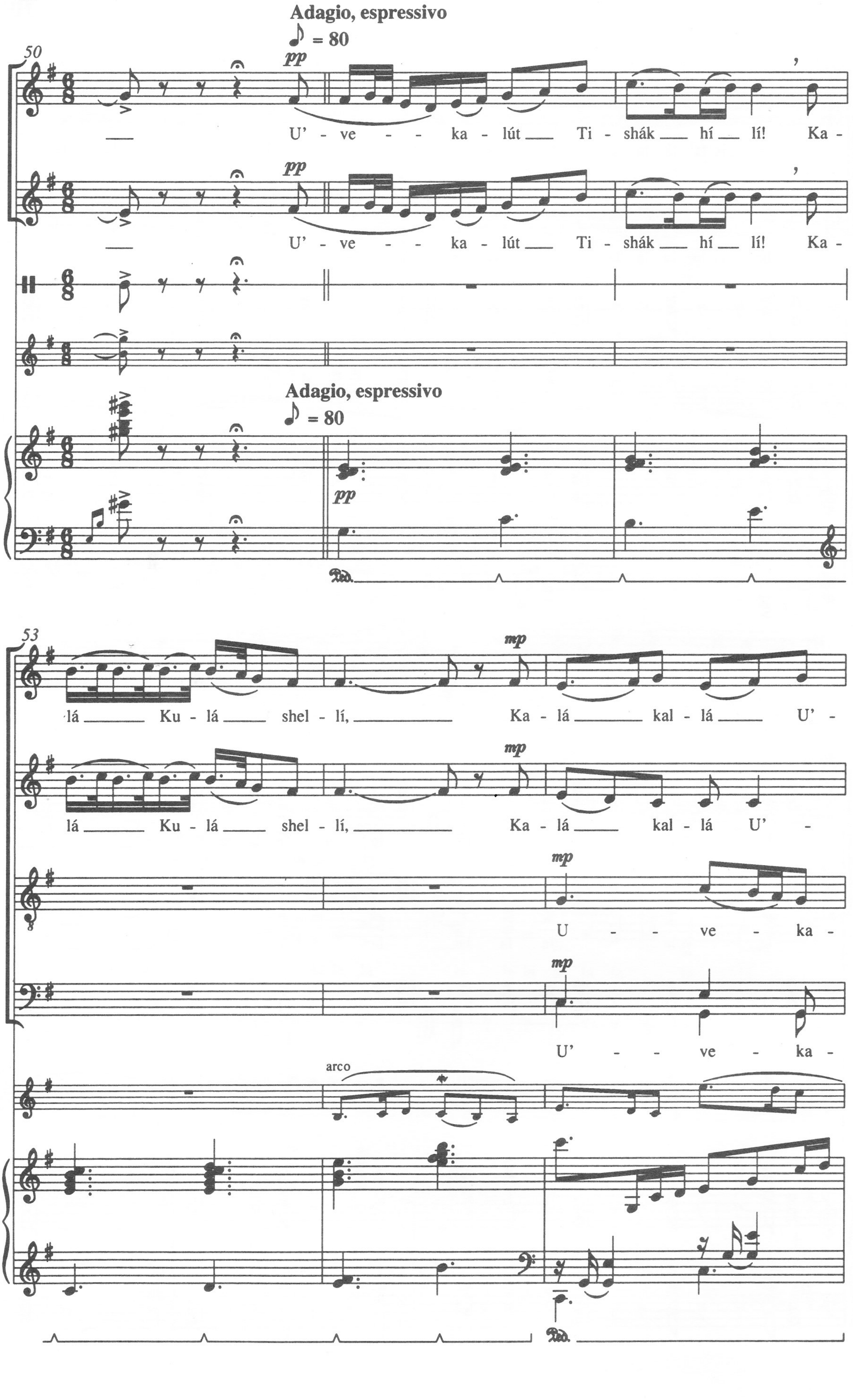

28
TEN.
lá Ku - lá she - lí, Ka - lá kal - la
BASS
lá Ku - lá she - lí, Ka - lá kal - la Ku -
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
31
rit.
la
la
Ka - lá kal - lá Ku - lá shel - lí,
lá she - lí, Ka - lá Ku - lá she - lí,
rit.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.

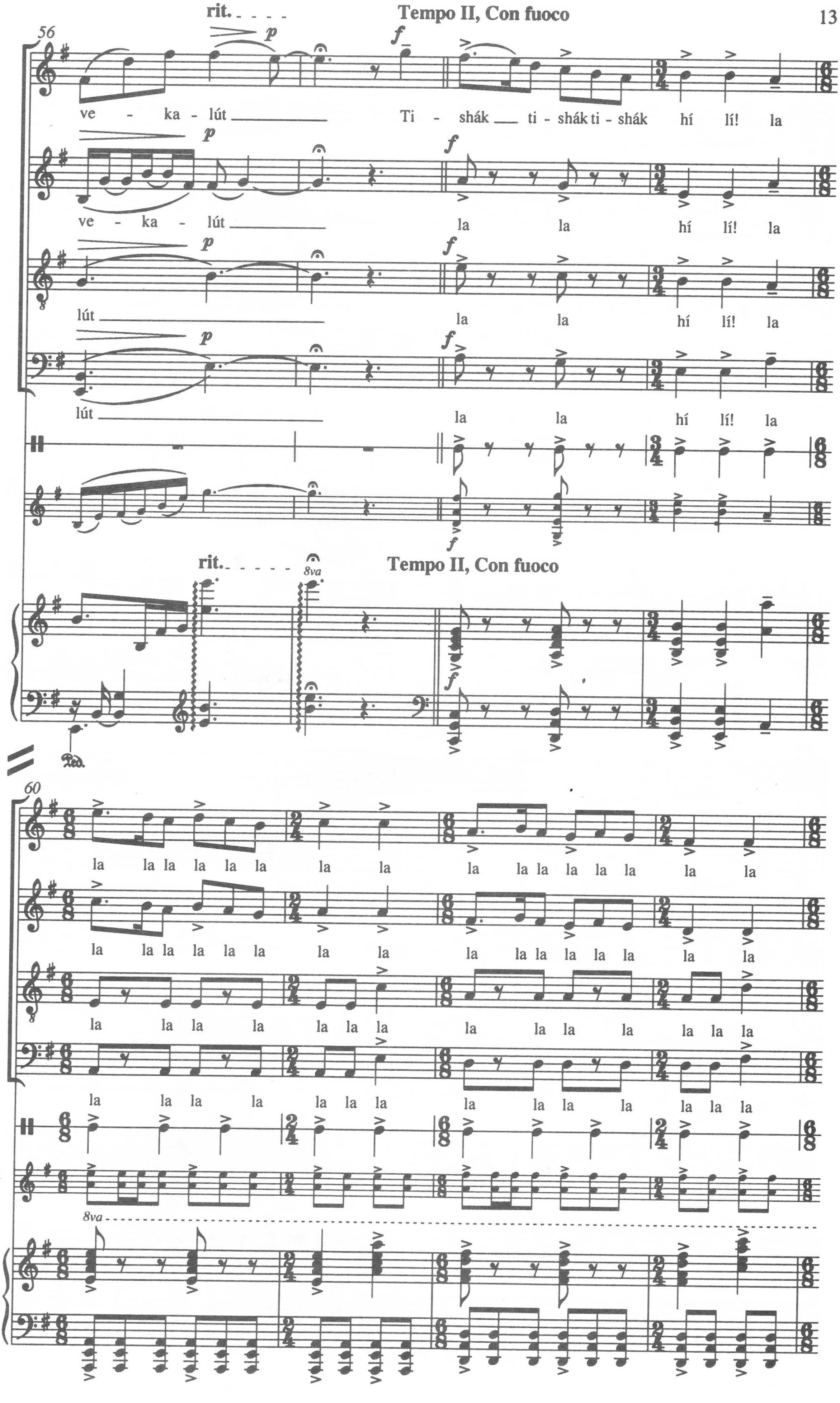

Tempo II
34
SOPR.
la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la
ALTO
la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la
TAMB.
mp
pizz.
Tempo II

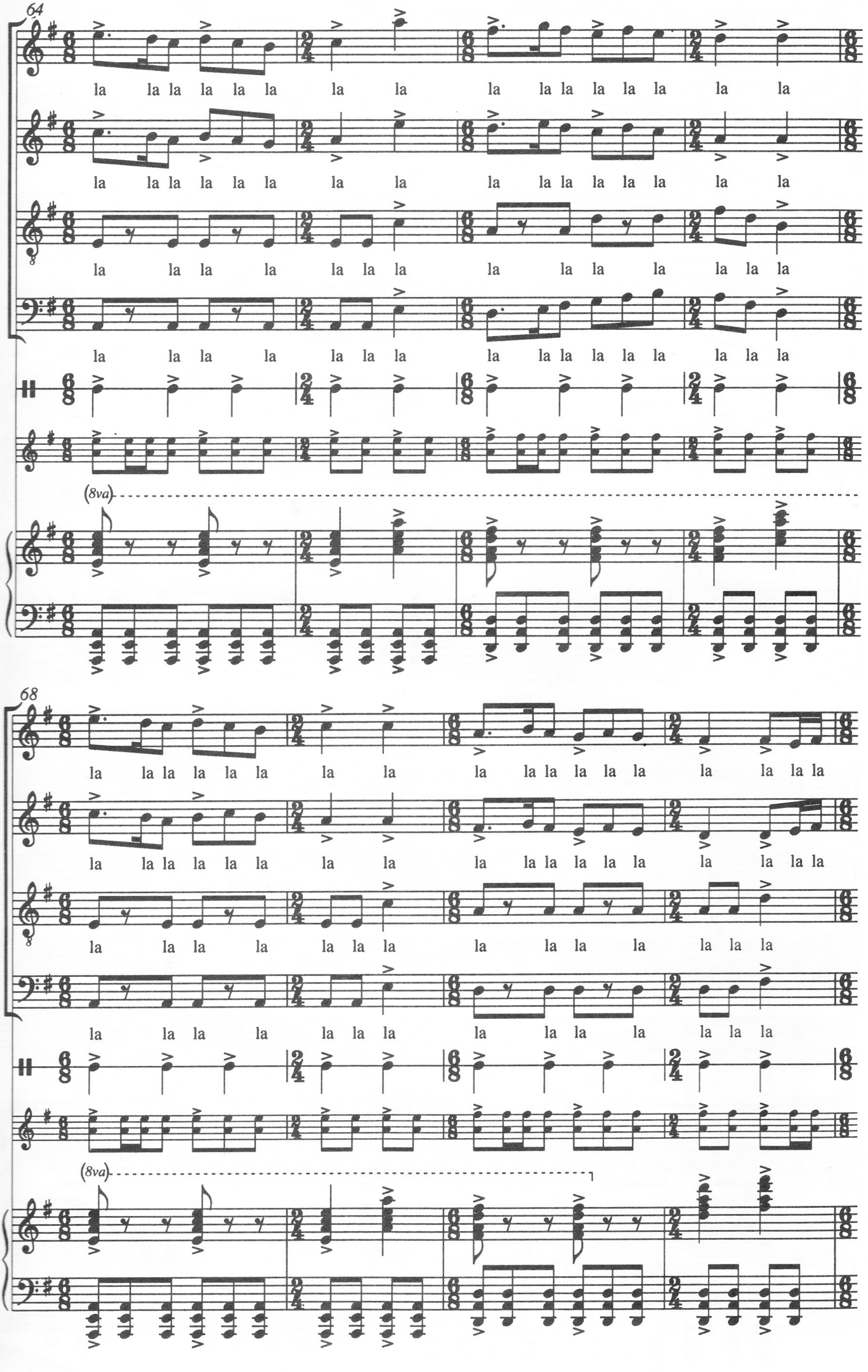

38
la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la
la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la

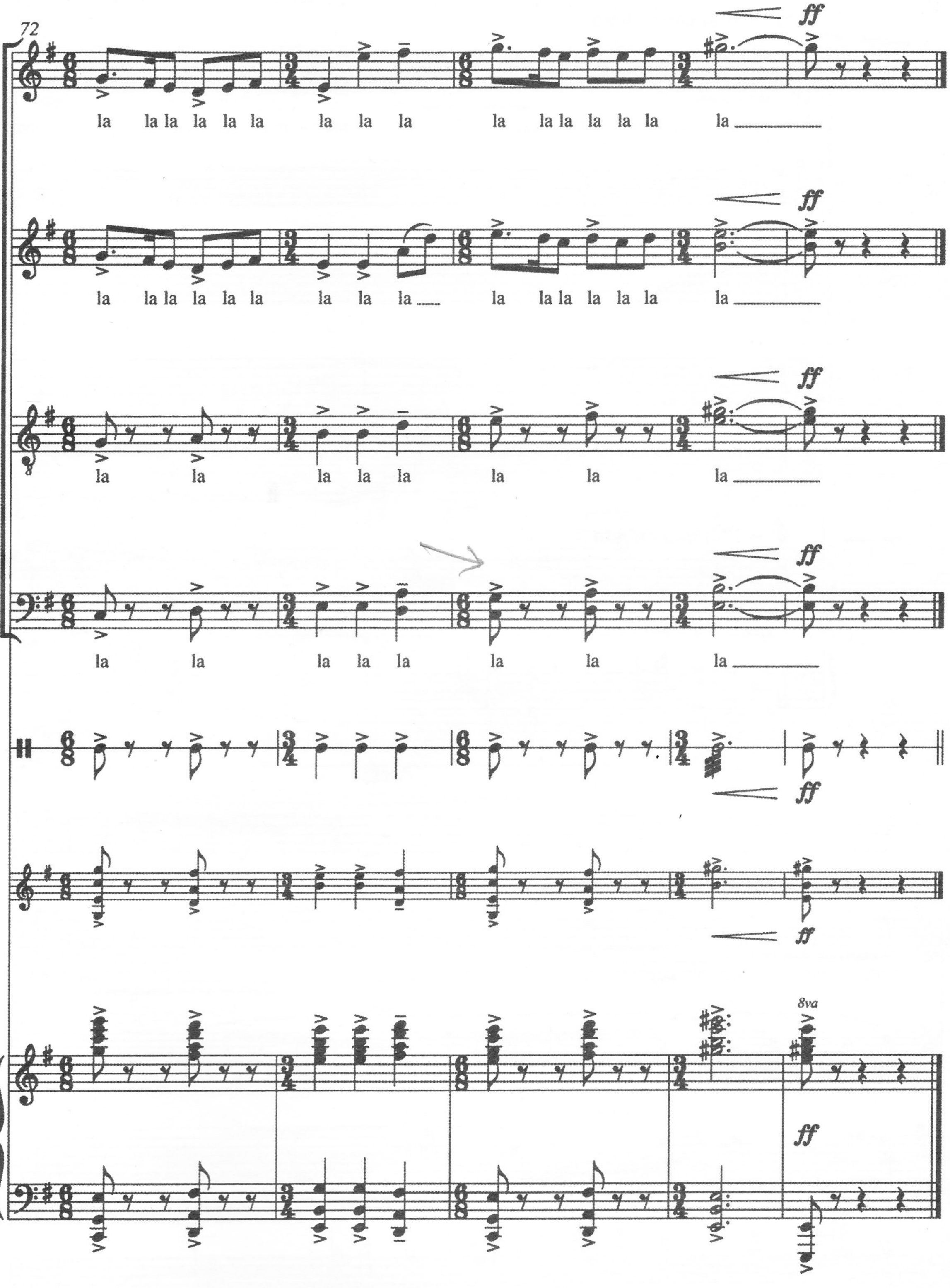

42
la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la
la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la


46
la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la
la la la la la la la la la la la la
arco


Adagio, espressivo
♪ = 80
50
pp
U' - ve - - ka - lút Ti - shák hí lí! Ka -
pp
U' - ve - - ka - lút Ti - shák hí lí! Ka -
Adagio, espressivo
♪ = 80
pp
Ped.
53
lá Ku - lá shel - lí,
mp
Ka - lá kal - lá U' -
lá Ku - lá shel - lí,
mp
Ka - lá kal - lá U' -
mp
U - - ve - ka -
mp
U' - - ve - ka -
arco
Ped.

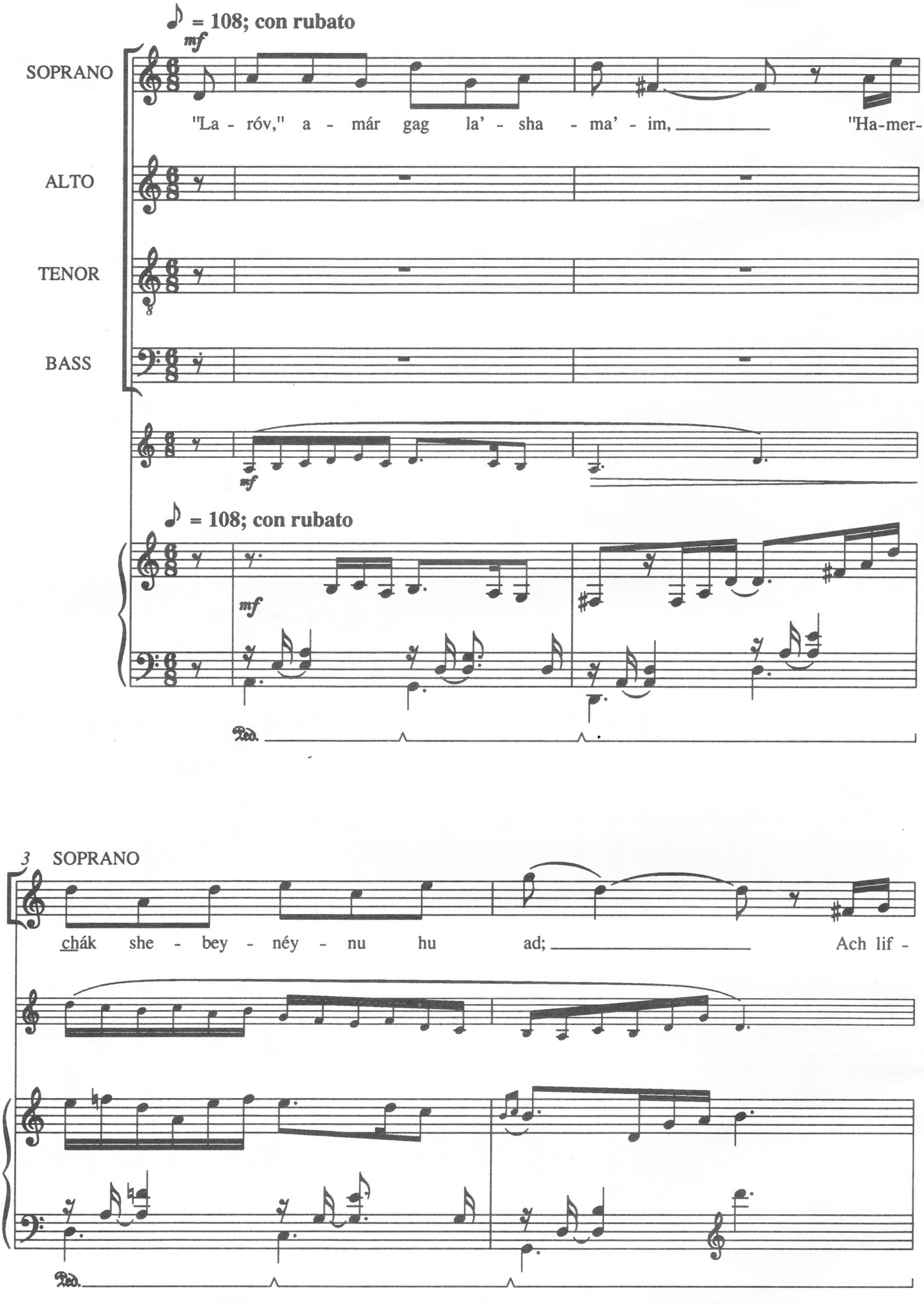

rit. - - - -
Tempo II, Con fuoco
56
p
f
ve - ka - lút
Ti - shák ti - shák ti - shák hí lí! la
ve - ka - lút
la la hí lí! la
lút
la la hí lí! la
lút
la la hí lí! la
rit. - - - - -
8va
Tempo II, Con fuoco
Ped.
60
la la la la la la la la
la la la la la la la la
la la la la la la la la
la la la la la la la la
la la la la la la la la la
la la la la la la la la la
la la la la la la la la la
la la la la la la la la la
8va

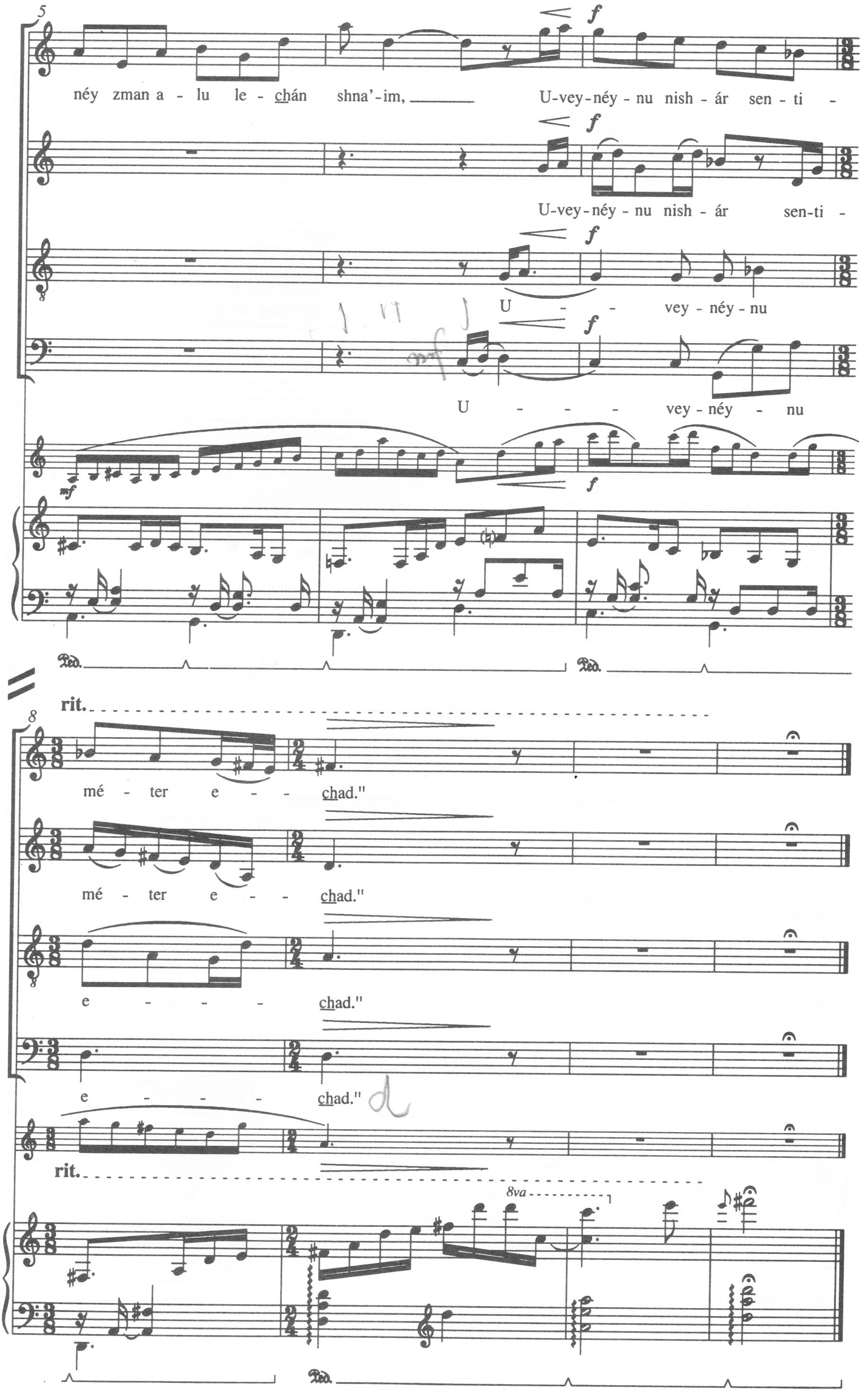

64
la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la
la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la
la la la la la la la la la la la la la la
la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la
(8va)
68
la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la
la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la
la la la la la la la la la la la la la la
la la la la la la la la la la la la la la
(8va)


72
la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la
la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la
la la la la la la la la
la la la la la la la la
ff
ff
ff
ff
ff
ff
ff
8va

III. Lárov

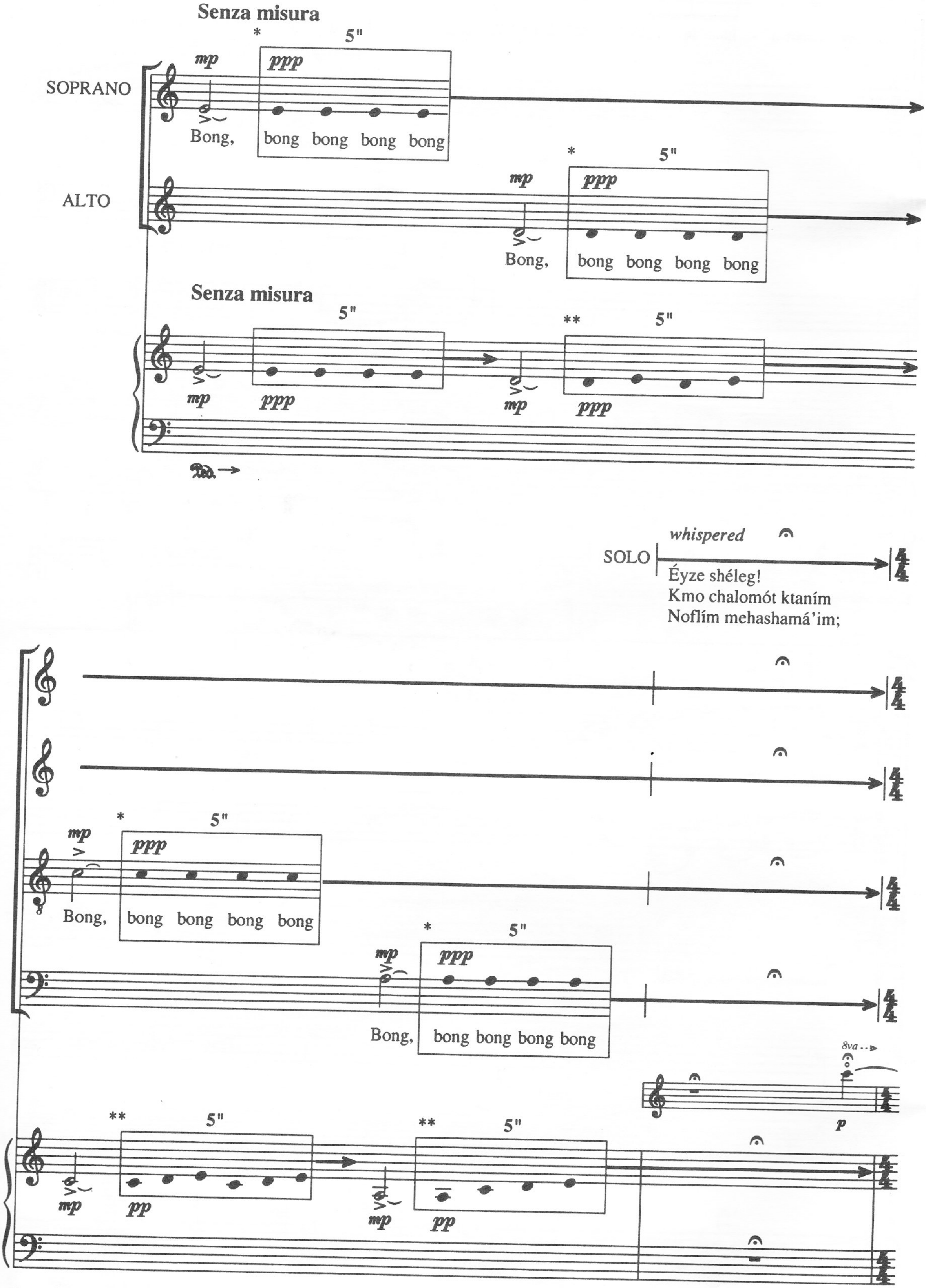
Mostly


♪ = 108; con rubato
mf
SOPRANO
ALTO
TENOR
BASS
"La - róv," a - már gag la' - sha - ma' - im, "Ha-mer-
mf
♪ = 108; con rubato
mf
Ped.
3 SOPRANO
chák she - bey - néy - nu hu ad; Ach lif -
Ped.


5
f
néy zman a - lu le - chán shna'-im, U-vey-néy - nu nish - ár sen - ti -
U-vey-néy - nu nish - ár sen-ti -
U - - vey - néy - nu
U - - - vey - néy - nu
mf
rit.
8
mé - ter e - - chad."
mé - ter e - - chad."
e - - - - chad."
e - - - - chad."
8va
Ped.

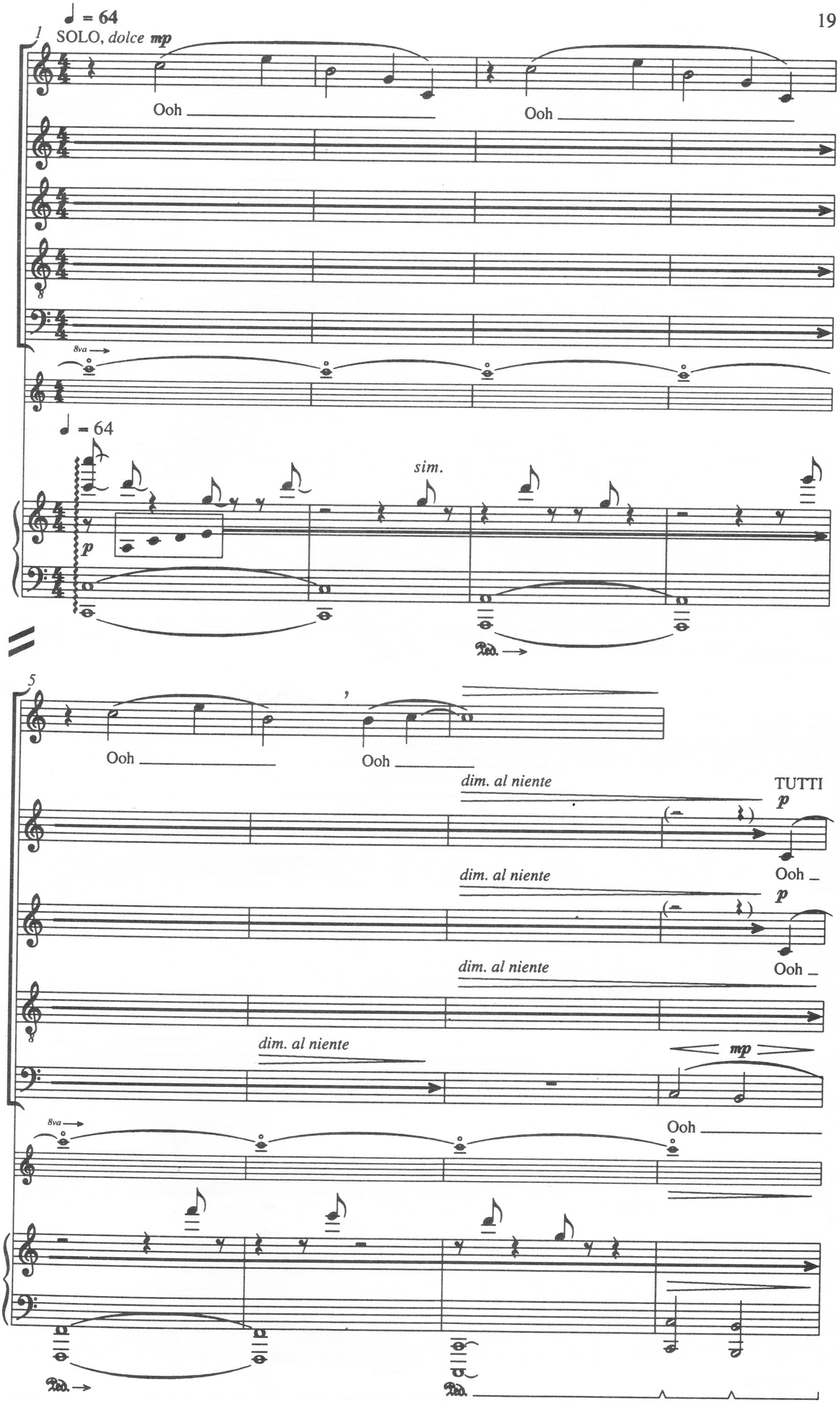
IV. Éyze shéleg!

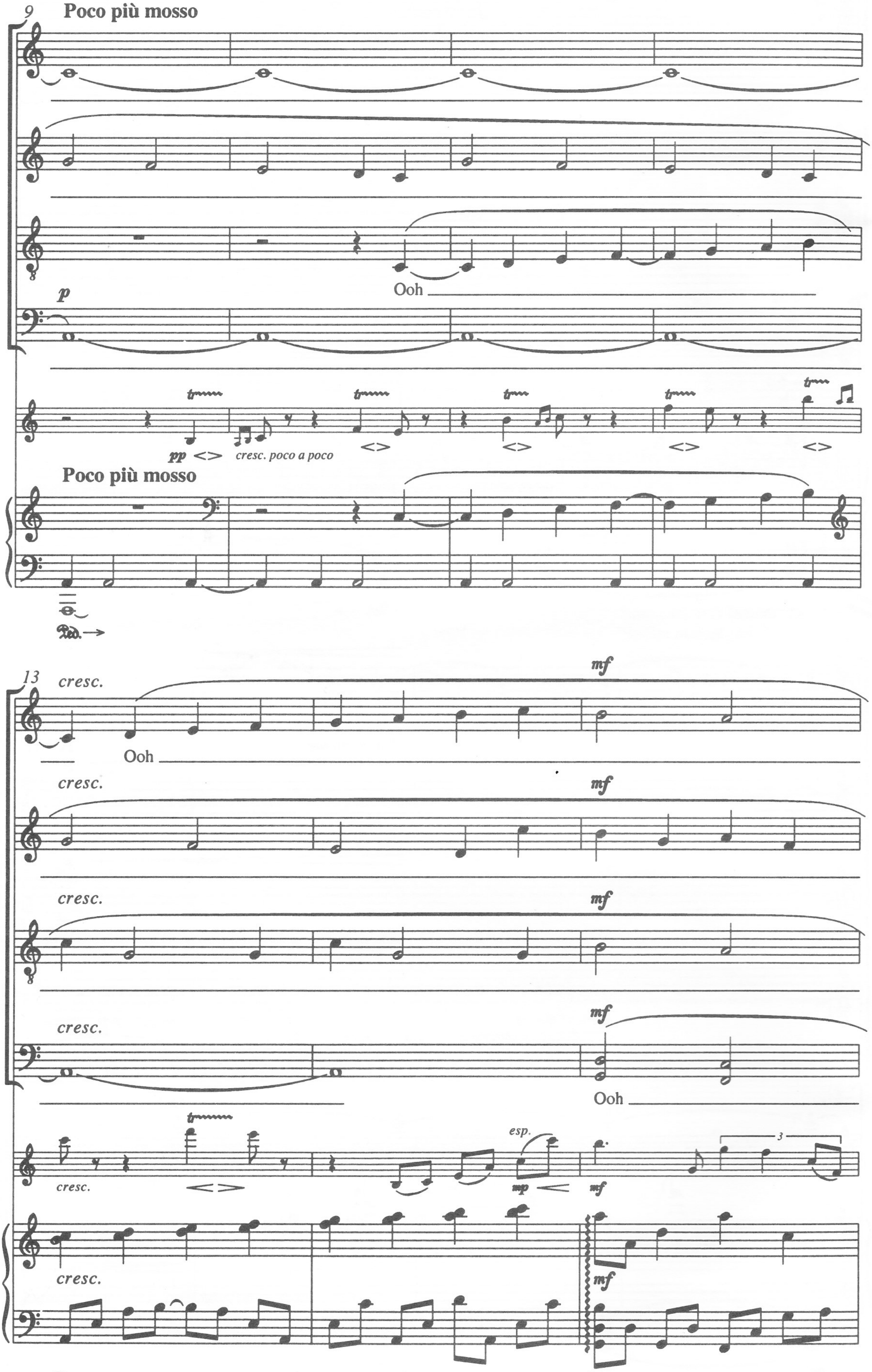
What snow!

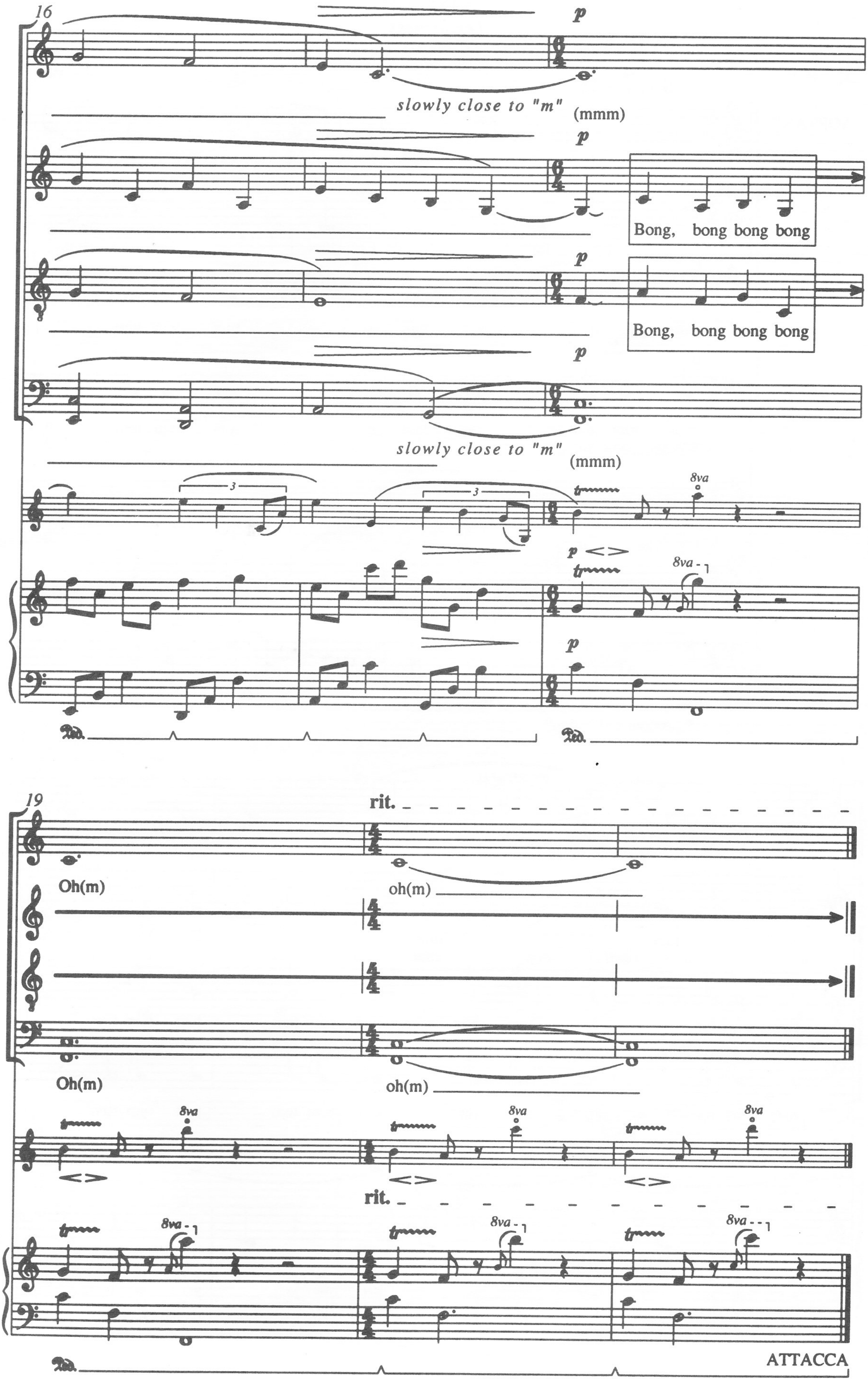

Senza misura
*
5"
mp
ppp
SOPRANO
Bong,
bong bong bong bong
ALTO
*
5"
mp
ppp
Bong,
bong bong bong bong
Senza misura
5"
mp
ppp
**
5"
mp
ppp
Ped.
SOLO
whispered
Éyze shéleg!
Kmo chalomót ktaním
Noflím mehashamá'im;
4/4
*
5"
mp
ppp
Bong,
bong bong bong bong
*
5"
mp
ppp
Bong,
bong bong bong bong
8va
p
**
5"
mp
pp
**
5"
mp
pp

---

* gradually, randomly melt into the aleatoric section
** play pitches in random order

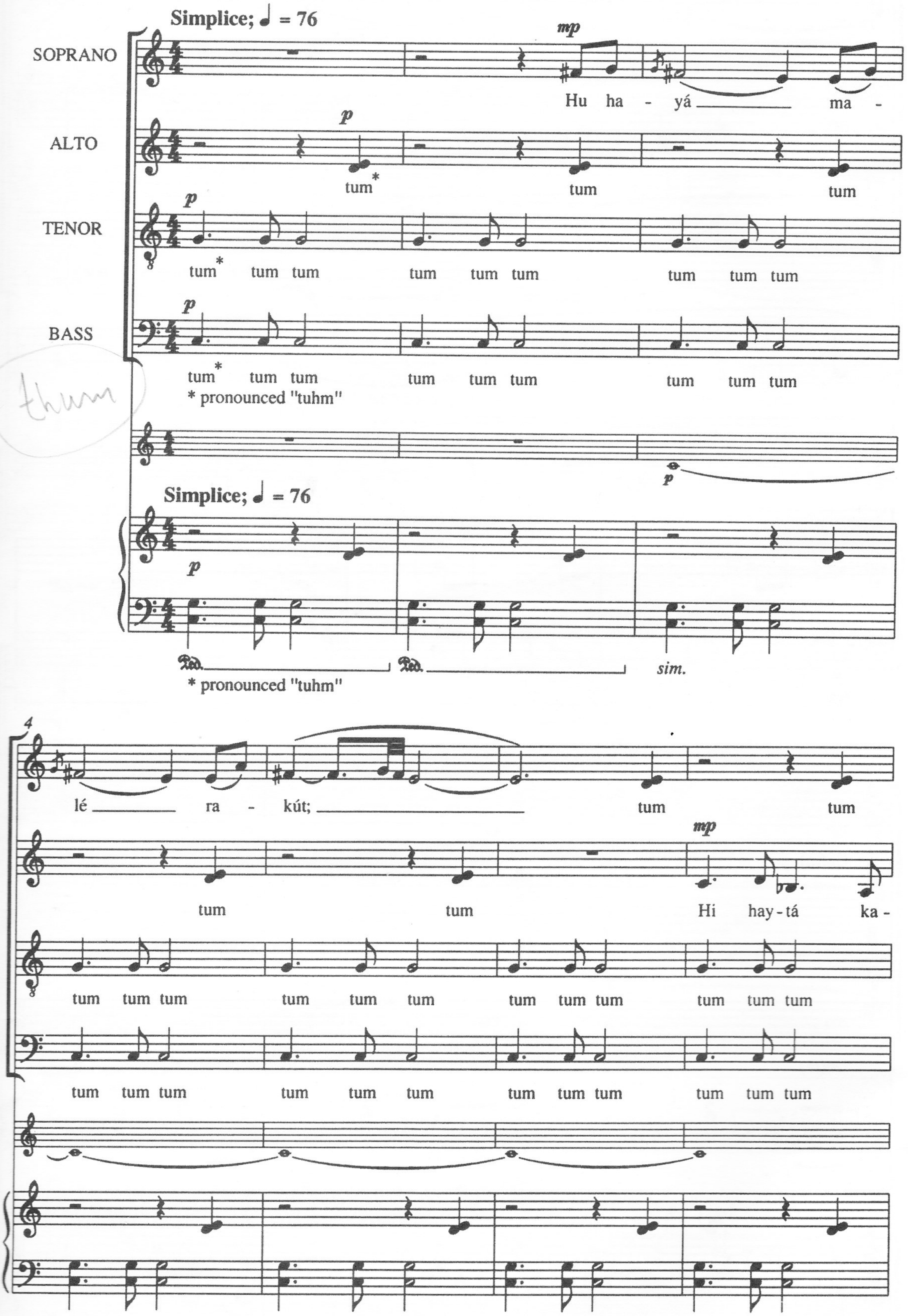

♩ = 64
1
SOLO, dolce mp
Ooh
Ooh
8va
♩ = 64
sim.
p
Ped.
5
Ooh
Ooh
dim. al niente
TUTTI
p
Ooh
dim. al niente
p
Ooh
dim. al niente
dim. al niente
mp
Ooh
8va
Ped.
Ped.


9
Poco più mosso
p
Ooh
pp
cresc. poco a poco
Poco più mosso
13
cresc.
Ooh
mf
cresc.
mf
cresc.
mf
cresc.
mf
Ooh
cresc.
esp.
mp
mf
3
cresc.
mf


16
p
slowly close to "m"
(mmm)
p
Bong, bong bong bong
p
Bong, bong bong bong
p
slowly close to "m"
(mmm)
3
3
8va
p
8va
p
𝆮
𝆮
19
rit.
Oh(m)
oh(m)
Oh(m)
oh(m)
8va
8va
8va
rit.
8va
8va
8va
𝆮
ATTACCA

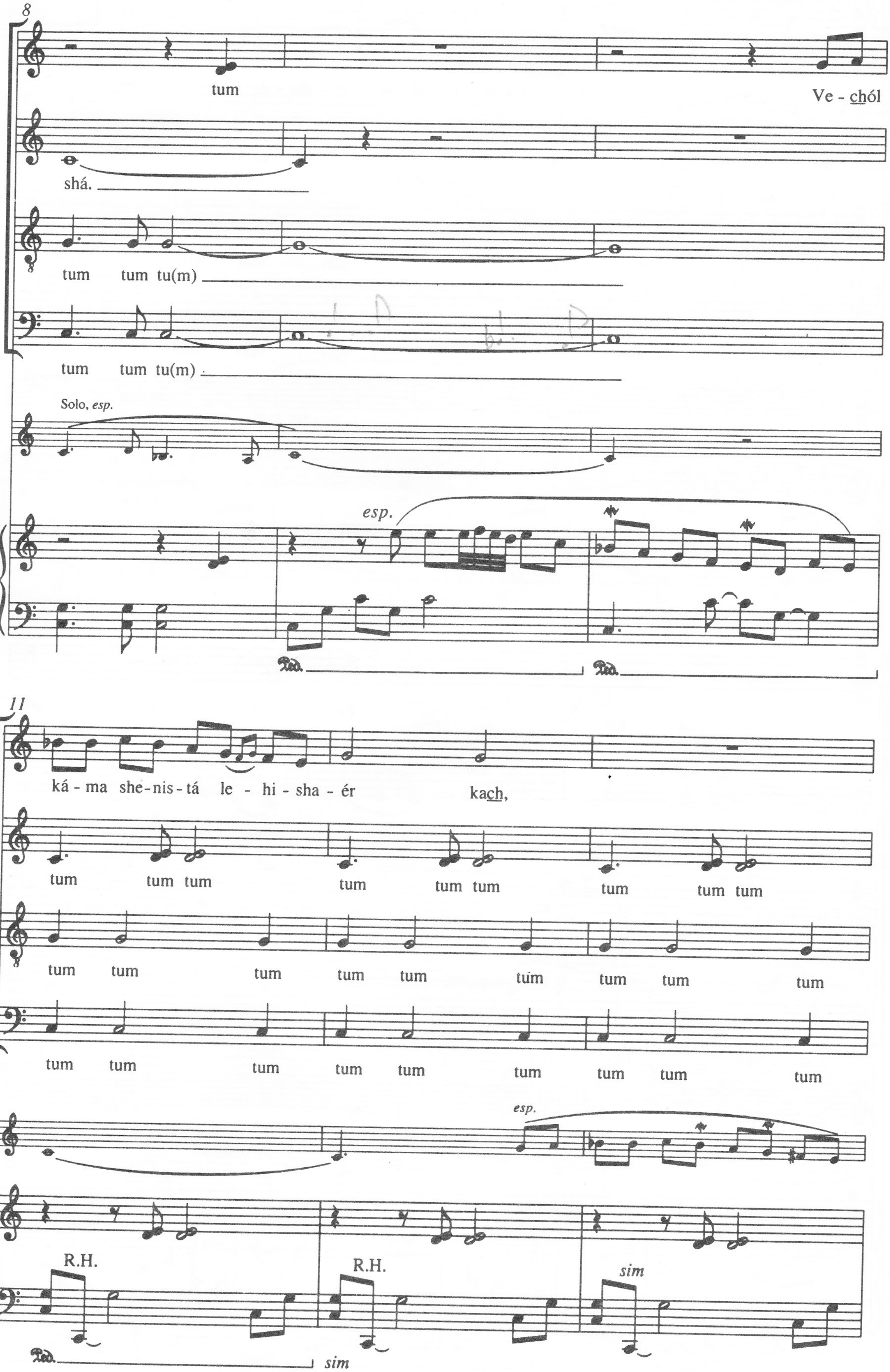
V. Rakút

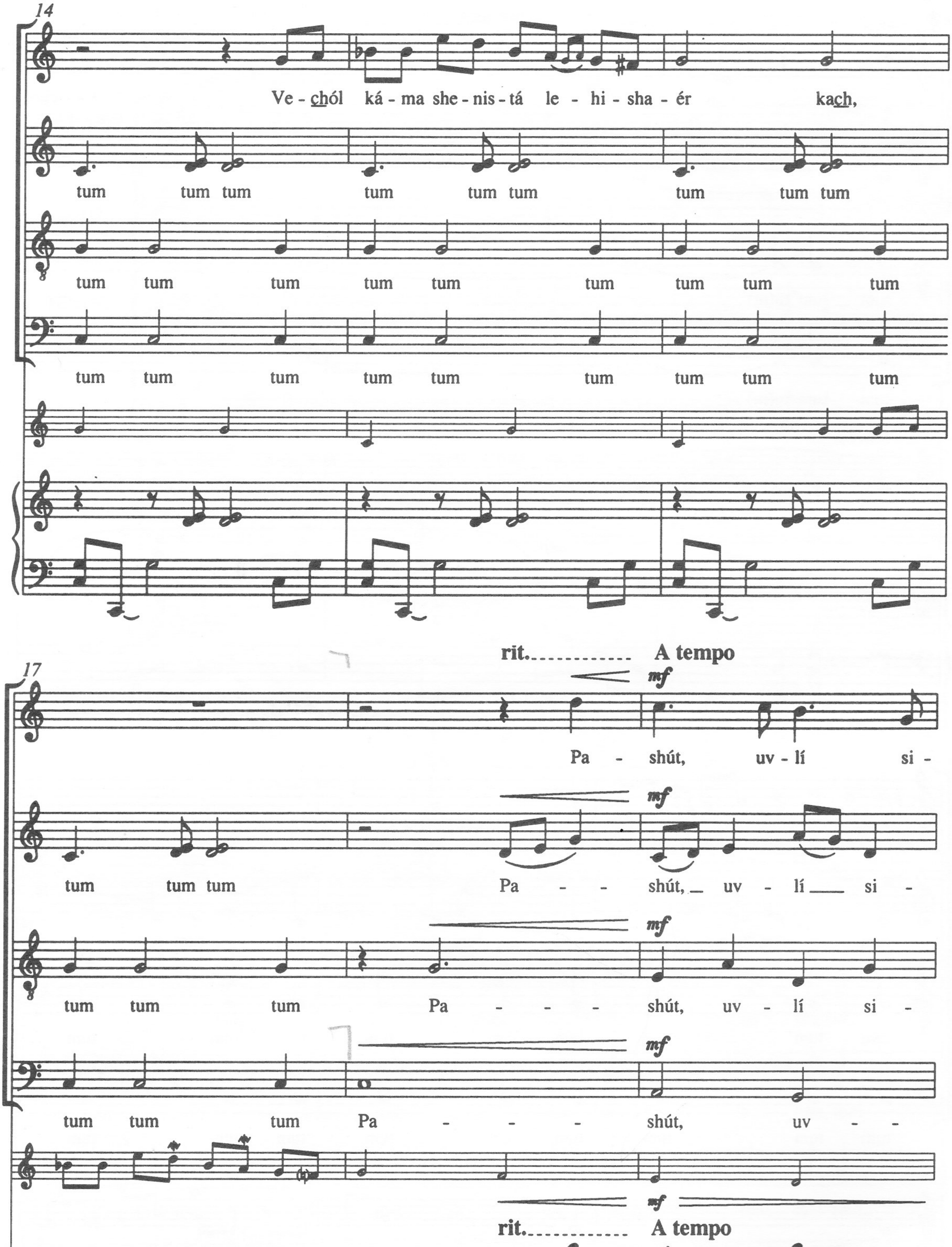
Tenderness

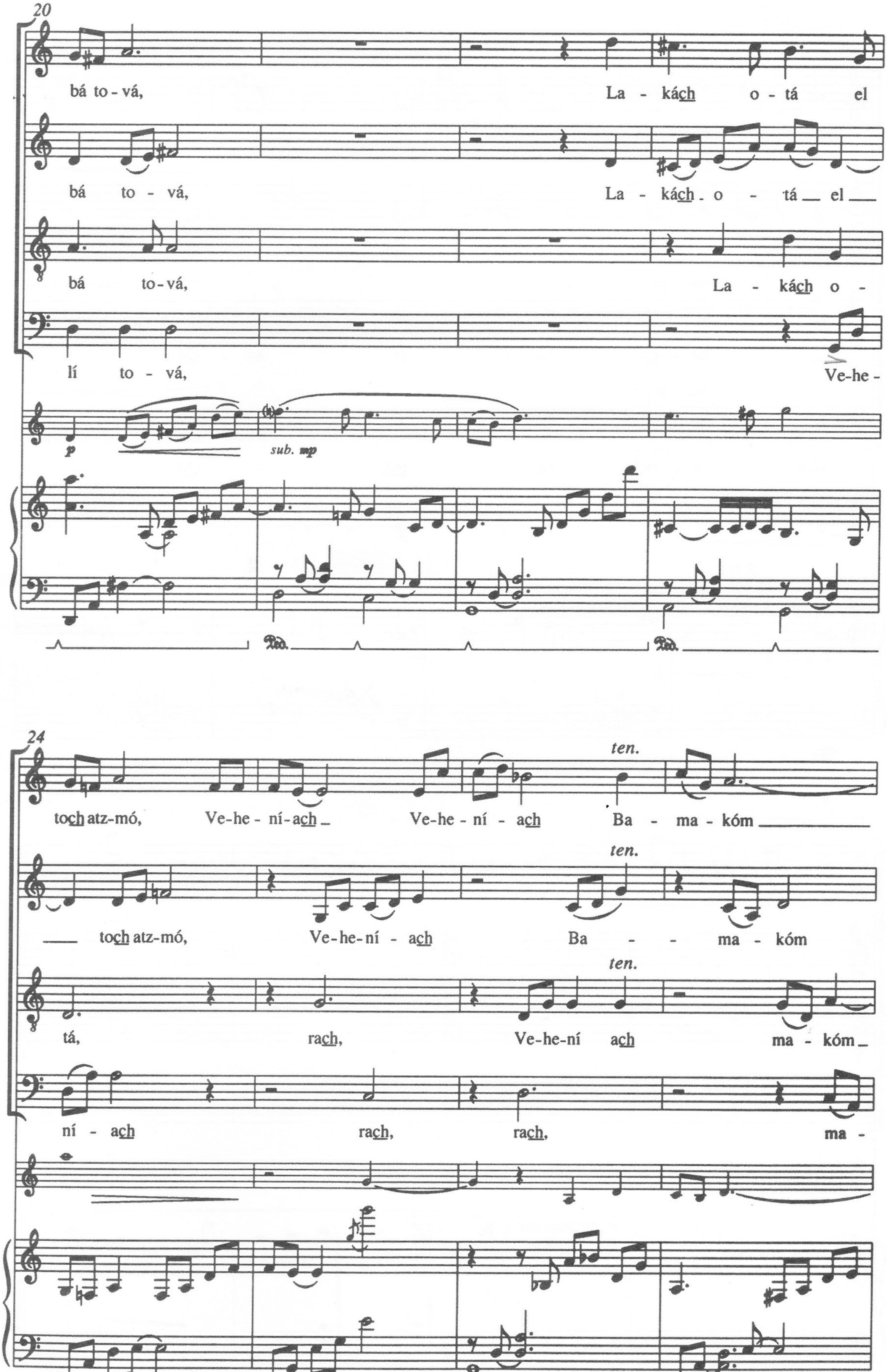

Simplice; ♩ = 76
SOPRANO
ALTO
TENOR
BASS
mp
p
Hu ha - yá ma - lé ra - kút; tum tum
tum* tum tum tum tum tum
tum* tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum
tum* tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum
Hi hay - tá ka -
thum
Simplice; ♩ = 76
Ped.
sim.
4

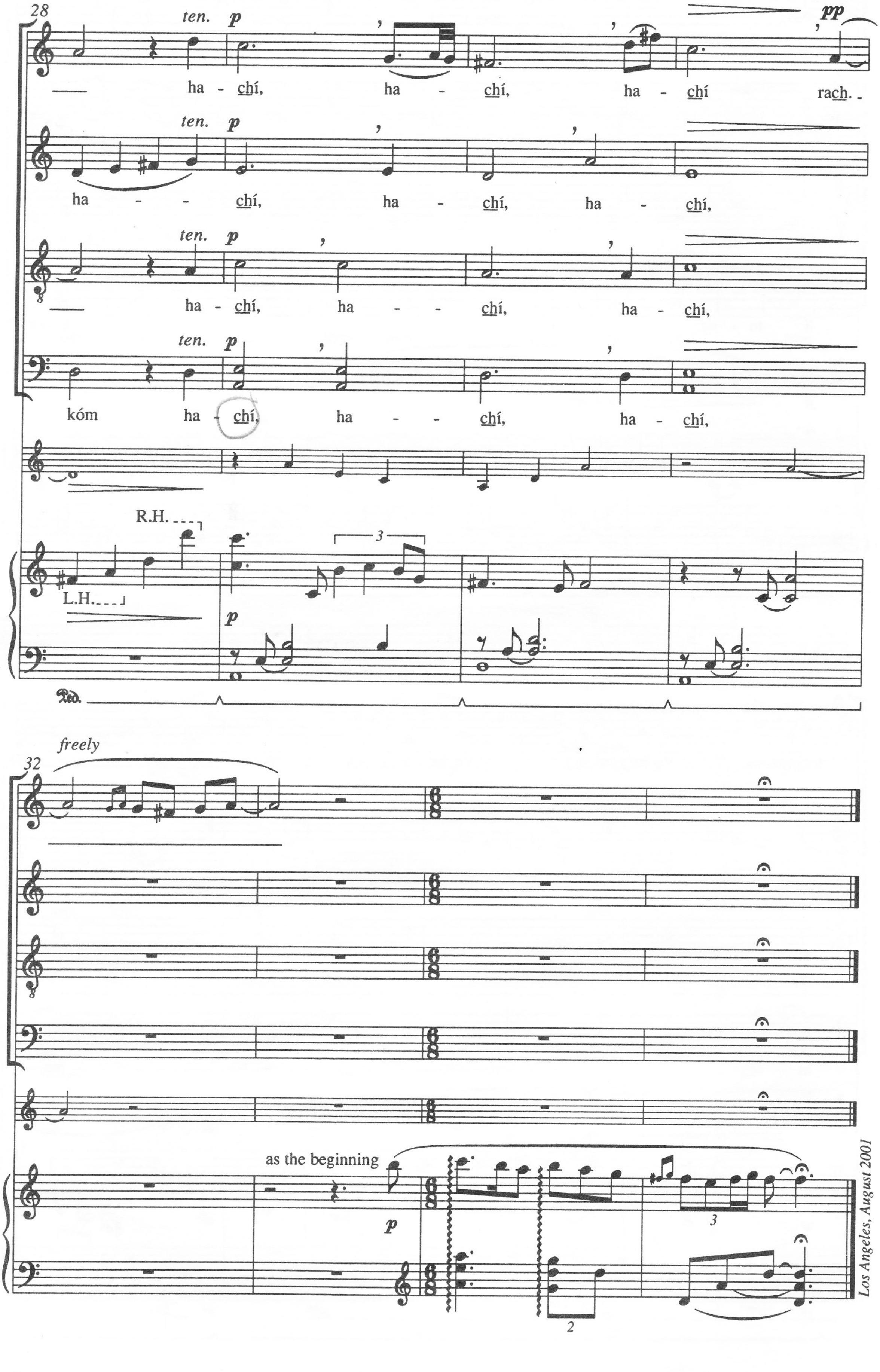
* pronounced "tuhm"

* pronounced "tuhm"


8
tum
Ve - chól
shá.
tum tum tu(m)
tum tum tu(m)
Solo, esp.
esp.
11
ká - ma she-nis-tá le - hi - sha - ér kach,
tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum
tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum
tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum
esp.
R.H.
R.H.
sim
sim


14
Ve - chól ká - ma she - nis - tá le - hi - sha - ér kach,
tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum
tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum
tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum
17
rit. A tempo
mf
Pa - shút, uv - lí si -
tum tum tum Pa - - shút, uv - lí si -
tum tum tum Pa - - - shút, uv - lí si -
tum tum tum Pa - - - - shút, uv - -
mf
rit. A tempo
mf
Ped. Ped.


20
bá to-vá, La - kách o - tá el
bá to - vá, La - kách - o - tá el
bá to-vá, La - kách o -
lí to - vá, Ve-he -
p
sub. mp
Ped.
Ped.
24
toch atz-mó, Ve-he - ní-ach Ve-he - ní - ach Ba - ma - kóm
toch atz-mó, Ve-he-ní - ach Ba - - ma - kóm
tá, rach, Ve-he-ní ach ma - kóm
ní - ach rach, rach, ma -
ten.
ten.
ten.
Ped.


28
ten. p
ha - chí, ha - chí, ha - chí rach. -
ha - - chí, ha - chí, ha - chí,
ha - chí, ha - - - chí, ha - chí,
kóm ha - chí, ha - - - chí, ha - chí,
pp
R.H.
L.H.
3
Ped.
32
freely
as the beginning
p
3
2

Los Angeles, August 2001